

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 NEAE-00 ACDA-05

L-03 /056 W

----- 028427

Z 031552Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 8479

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1108

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJ: ALLEGED USG MESSAGE TO CHRISTIANS

REF: STAE 25951

1. THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN IMAGINE THAT RANDAL MIGHT HAVE PINNED HIS STORY ON APART FROM WELL-PUBLICIZED USG POSITION EXPRESSING SATISFACTION OVER CURRENT SYRIAN ROLE IN ASSISTING CEASE FIRE AND POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MAY IN GOOD CONSCIENCE CONTINUE TO DENY ANY SUCH MESSAGE AND REFER TO SPOKESMAN'S OWN REMARKS OF FEW DAYS AGO ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. THOUGH WE DO NOT RECOMMEND IT, SPOKESMAN MAY WISH TO POINT OUT KASLIK MEETING OF CHRISTIANS ON SATURDAY WAS CALLED ONLY AT LAST MOMENT AND IT WAS PROLONGED TO SUNDAY (AND EVENTUALLY ALSO MONDAY) AGAIN AT LAST MOMENT. GETTING APPROPRIATE MESSAGE PREPARED FOR SUCH MEETING WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT EVEN FOR USG.

3. FYI ONLY. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THIS IS NOT EMBASSY'S FIRST RUN-IN WITH MR. JONATHAN RANDAL. ACTING APO HAS JUST CHECKED WITH HIM AND VERIFIED STORY WAS FILED ABOUT AS QUOTED REFTEL (SO THAT REWRITE EDITORS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE). RANDAL SAID IT CAME FROM "IMPECCABLE LEBANESE SOURCES." HE ALSO SAID STORY APPEARED IN
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NEWSPAPER HEADED BY DEPARTMENT'S ENIAL. WHILE WRONG OF COURSE,

STORY DOES NOT APPEAR TO RUN CONTRARY TO CURRENT USG POLICY AND CAN
THEREFORE NOT DO ANY GREAT HARM. IT ONLY SUGGESTS WE HAVE BEEN MORE
ACTIVE HERE THAN WE HAVE. LAMBRAKIS

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NNN

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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